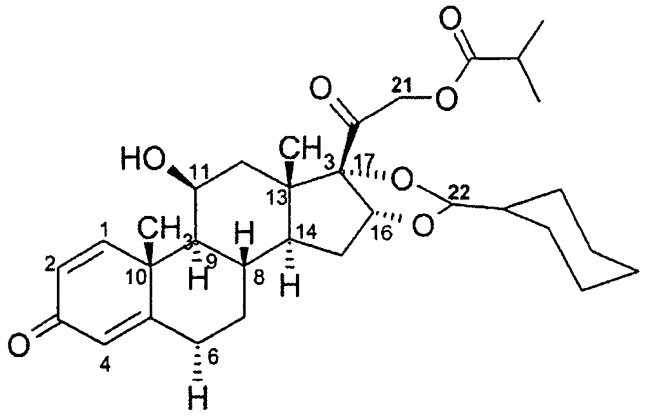
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of the formula I



Formula I

in crystalline form, with ~~defined particle size~~ a particle diameter for 50% of the total volume of all particles (X_{50}) of less than or equal to 3µm, comprising the steps of

a) preparing a solution of the compound of the formula I in a suitable water-miscible organic solvent;

b) adding the solution obtained in a) to water and

c) isolating a precipitate of the compound of the formula I which is formed.

2. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the suitable water-miscible organic solvent is an alcohol.

3. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 2, characterized in that the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, N-propanol, isopropanol and mixtures in any mixing ratio thereof.

4. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 3, characterized in that the alcohol is ethanol.

5. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the suitable water-miscible organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, tetrahydrofuran and dimethylformamide.

6. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the temperature of the suitable water-miscible organic solvent is in the range from 15°C to 10°C below the boiling point of the solvent.

7. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 6, characterized in that the temperature of the suitable water-miscible organic solvent corresponds to the room temperature at which the process is carried out.

8. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the temperature of the water is from 10 to 50°C.

9. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 7, characterized in that the temperature of the water corresponds to the room temperature at which the process is carried out.

10. (Currently amended) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that, in step (a), the compound of the formula I has the chemical name 16,17-[(cyclohexylmethylene)bis(oxy)]-11-hydroxy-21-(2-methyl-1-oxopropoxy)pregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione [11beta, 16alpha (R,S)].

11. (Currently amended) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that, in step (a), the compound of the formula I is substantially in the form of the R epimer.

12. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 11, characterized in

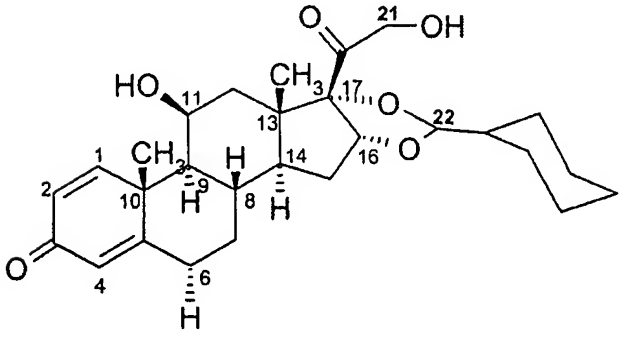
that the proportion of R epimer in the compound of the formula I is more than 95%.

13. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 11, characterized in that the compound of the formula I is ciclesonide.

14. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the precipitate obtained in step c) is subsequently dried.

15. (Currently amended) The process for preparing a compound of the formula I according to Claim 1 in crystalline form with ~~defined particle size~~ a particle diameter for 50% of the total volume of all particles (X_{50}) of less than or equal to 3µm, comprising the steps of

a) preparing a compound of the formula I by acylation of a compound of the formula II



Formula II

with a suitable acylating agent;

b) crystallizing the compound of the formula I obtained in a) by adding water to a solution of the compound in a suitable water-miscible organic solvent or heating a suspension of the compound of the formula I in a mixture of a suitable water-miscible organic solvent and water,

c) removing the resulting R epimer-enriched precipitate of the compound of the formula I from the water/solvent mixture;

d) if desired repeating step b);

e) preparing a solution of the compound obtained in c) in a suitable water-miscible organic solvent;

f) adding the solution obtained in e) to water and

g) isolating a precipitate which has been formed of the compound of the formula I.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 16, where the particle size is characterized by an X_{50} in the range from 1.8 to 2.0.

18. (Previously presented) The process according to Claim 15, where the organic

solvents used in steps b) and e) are the same solvents.

19. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula I obtainable according to the process of Claim 1 without a further micronization step, where the compound is in inhalable form.

20. (Withdrawn) The compound according to Claim 19, wherein the compound of the formula I has a particle size characterized by an X_{50} in the range from 1.8 to 2.0.

21. (Withdrawn) The compound according to claim 19, which is not in micronized form.

22. (Withdrawn) A crystalline ciclesonide with a particle size characterized by an X_{50} of less than or equal to 10.

23. (Withdrawn) A crystalline ciclesonide with a particle size characterized by an X_{50} in the range from 1.8 to 2.0.

24. (Withdrawn) A crystalline ciclesonide according to claim 22, which is not in micronized form.

25. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 19, which compound is present as solid particles together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

26. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 25, which is an aqueous suspension of the compound.

27. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 25, which is a dry powder.